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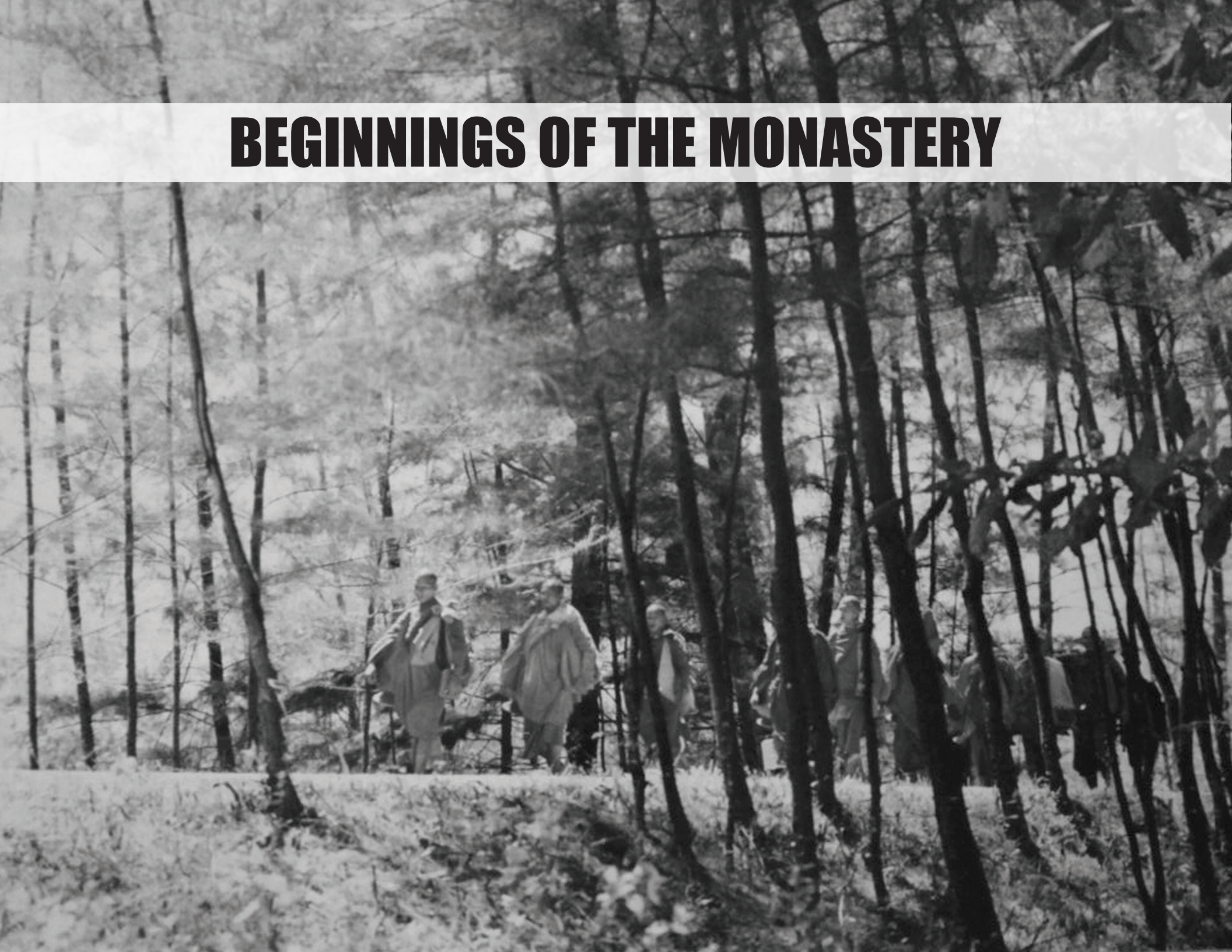
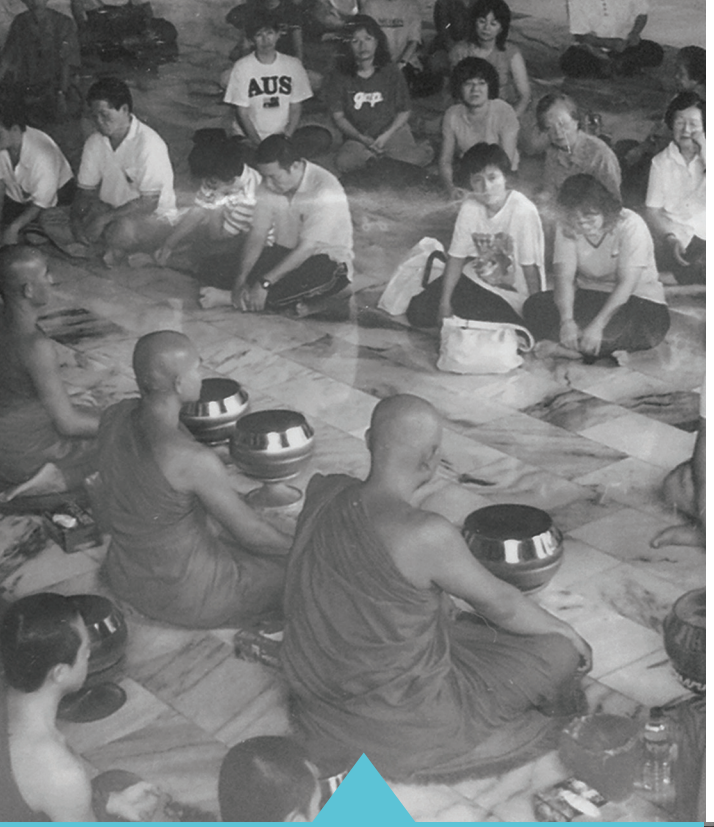
BEGINNINGS OF THE MONASTERY



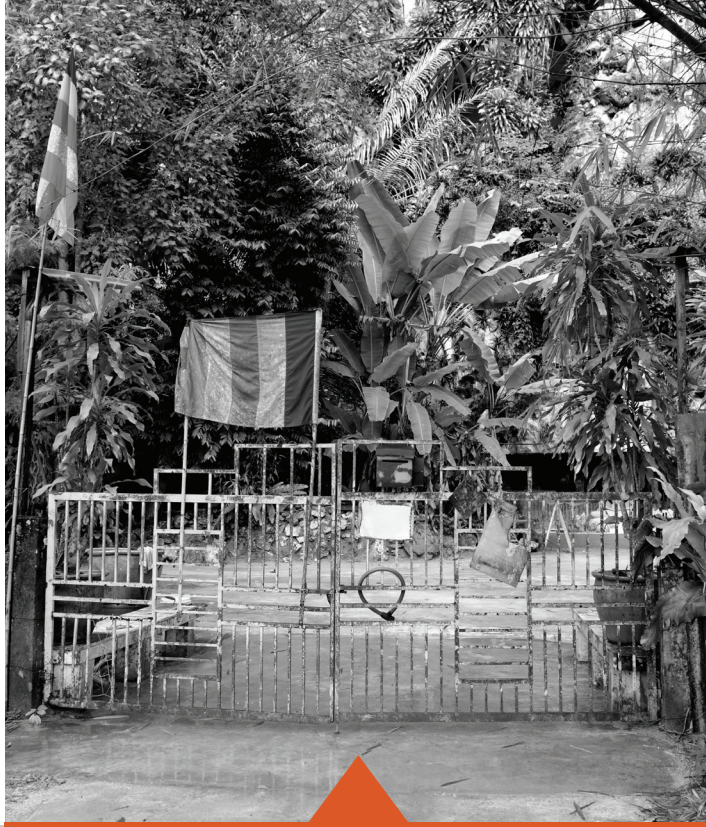


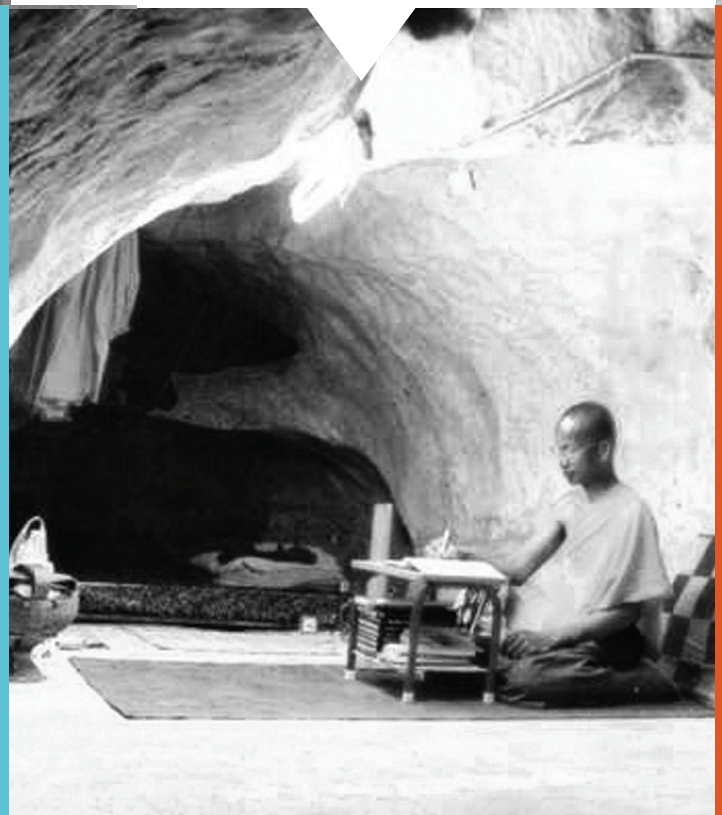
01

BUDDHISM IN KINTA VALLEY PERAK AND THE CAVE TRADITION

02

THE GREAT THUDONG MASTER'S VISION LED HIM TO GUNUNG KANTHAN



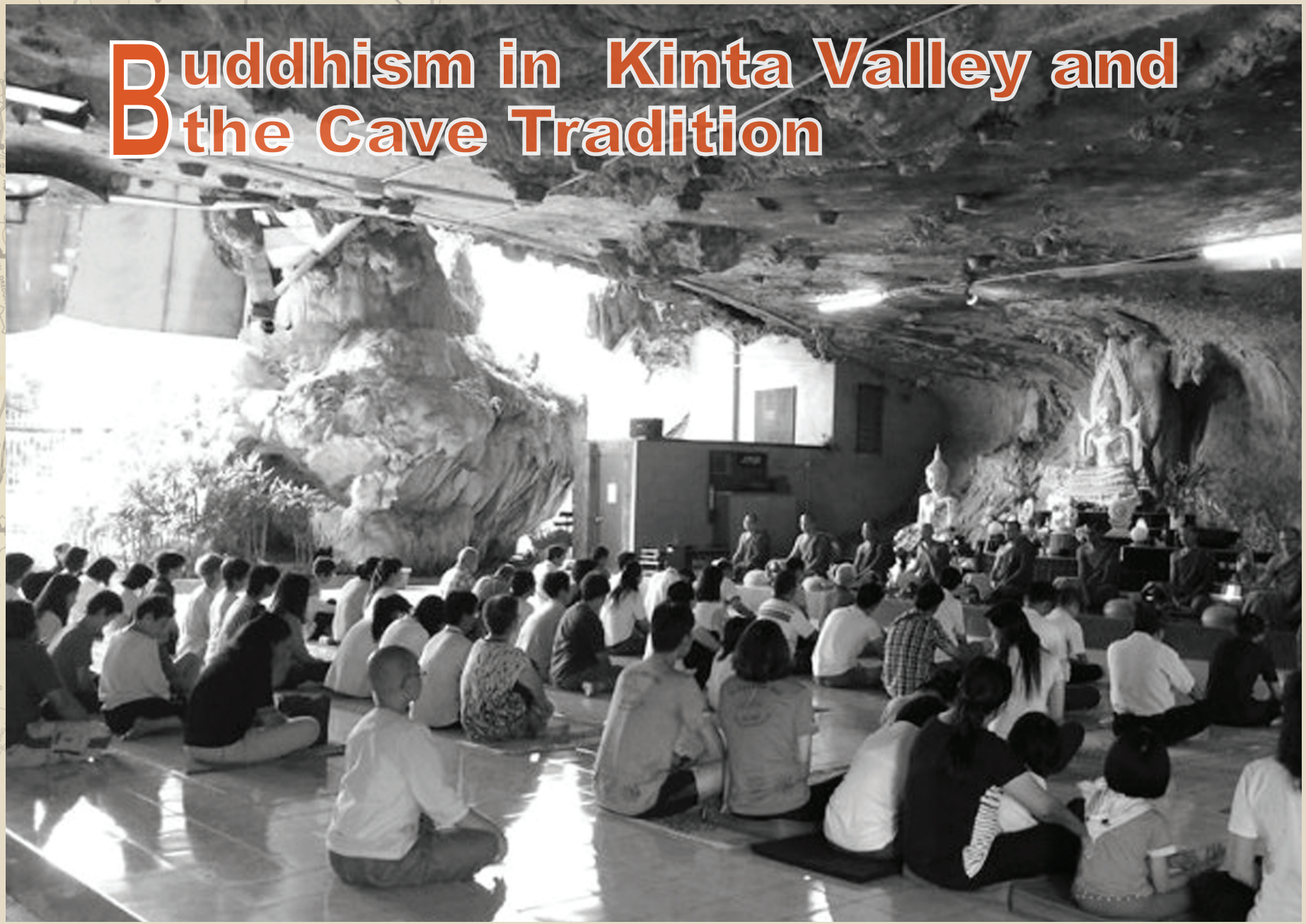


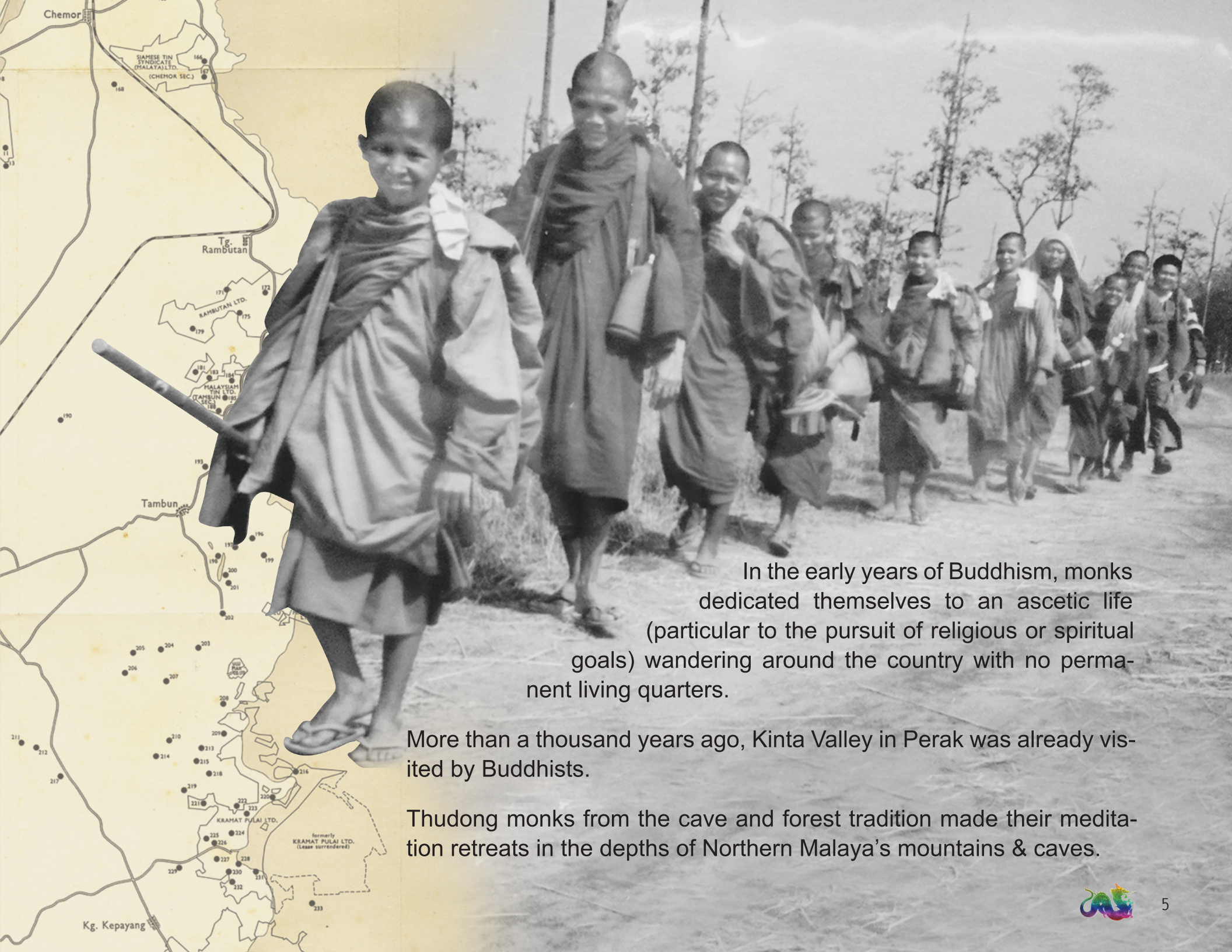
03

THE SAKYAMUNI CAVE MONASTERY

A right place to walk the path

Buddhism in Kinta Valley and the Cave Tradition





In the early years of Buddhism, monks dedicated themselves to an ascetic life (particular to the pursuit of religious or spiritual goals) wandering around the country with no permanent living quarters.

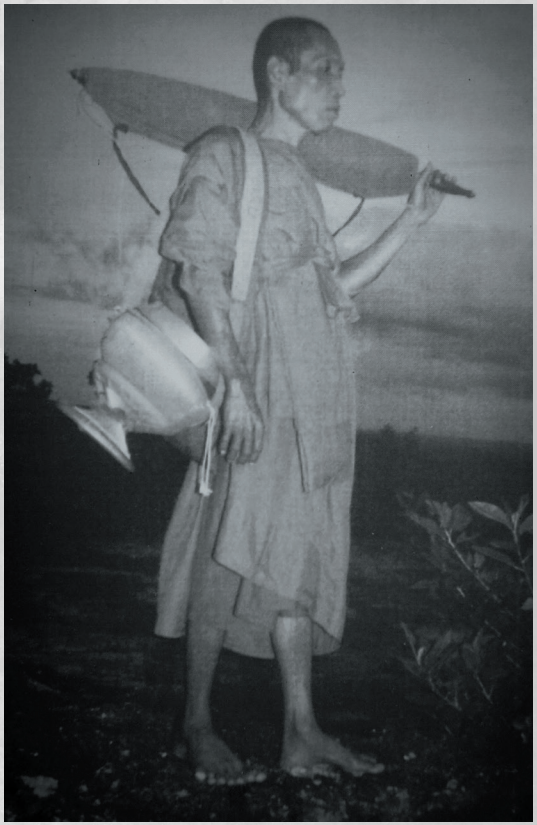
More than a thousand years ago, Kinta Valley in Perak was already visited by Buddhists.

Thudong monks from the cave and forest tradition made their meditation retreats in the depths of Northern Malaya's mountains & caves.

Our Great Thudong master in Thailand during his deep concentration whilst in meditation, had an inner vision of a mountain resembling a formidable Reclining Buddha in northern Malaya.

In the belly of the mountain, he saw a vision of a golden “naga”[1].

The Great Master’s search started in the 1900s and he walked all over Malaya in search for the mountain.

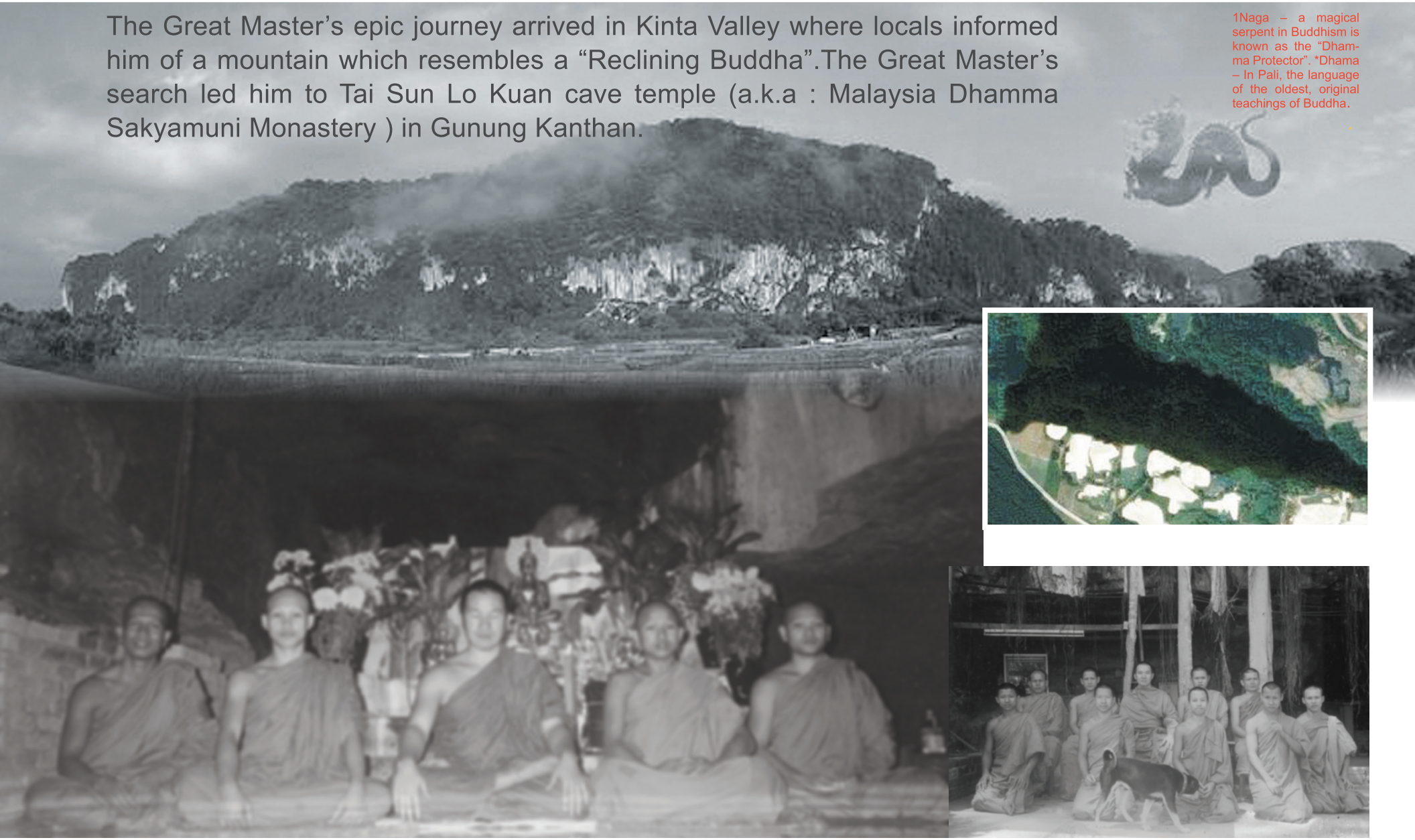


The Great Thudong Master’s *Vision* led him to Gunung Kanthan

A place where the teaching of the Buddha can flourish ….

The Great Master's epic journey arrived in Kinta Valley where locals informed him of a mountain which resembles a "Reclining Buddha".The Great Master's search led him to Tai Sun Lo Kuan cave temple (a.k.a : Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery) in Gunung Kanthan.

1Naga – a magical serpent in Buddhism is known as the "Dhamma Protector". *Dhama – In Pali, the language of the oldest, original teachings of Buddha.



Hence, the Sakyamuni Lineage and monastery in Gunung Kanthan began …..

The Sakyamuni Caves Monastery

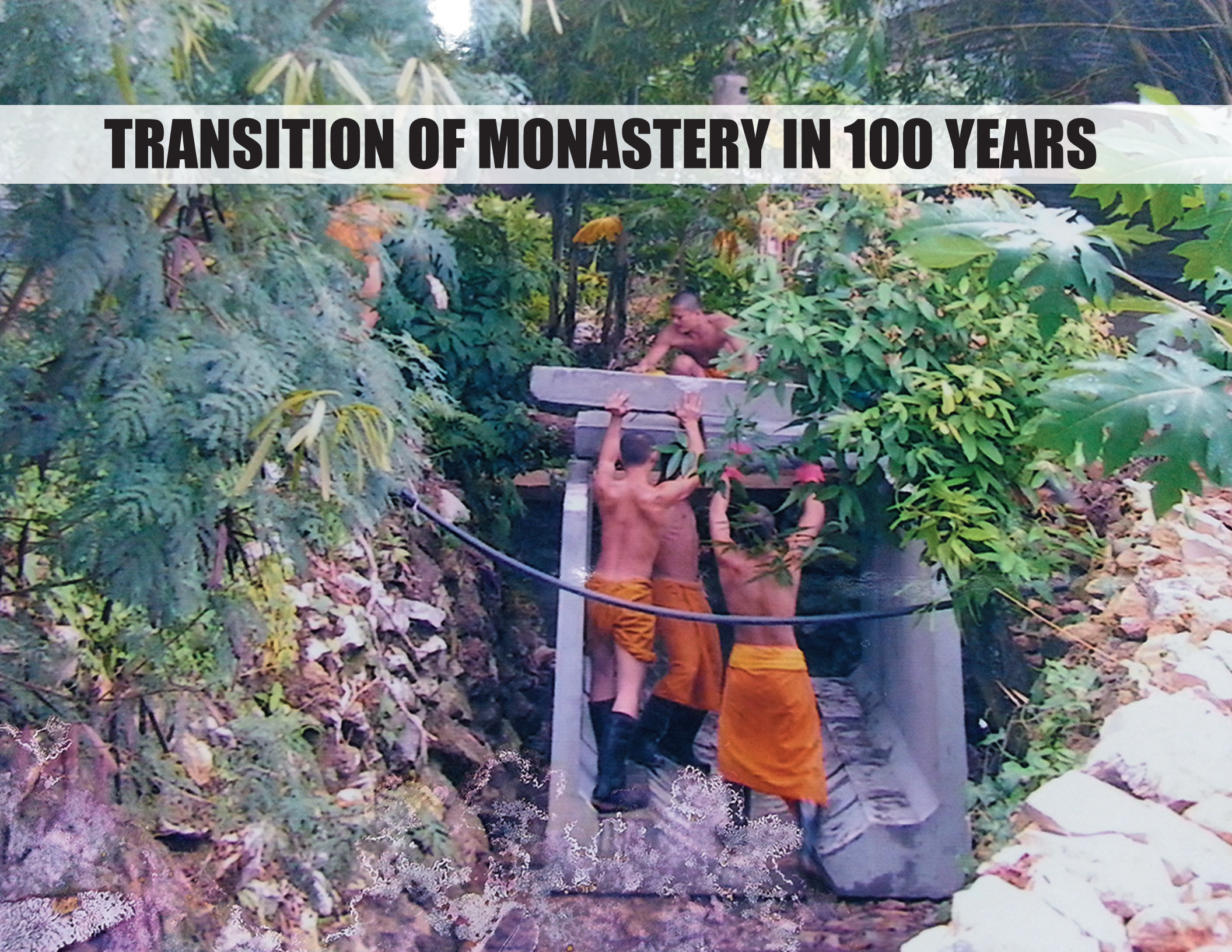
A Right Place to Walk the Path

Our Great Thudong Master renamed the Tai Sun Lo Kuan Temple to be the Sakyamuni Caves Monastery.

The Sakyamuni caves are rare and unique in that it has an upper and lower cave that provides shelter and a protective shield of stillness which is perfect for teachings and meditation.

The special and sacred qualities of The Sakyamuni Caves provide the perfect sanctuary to practice the meditative life and the awakening of the mind, body and spirit to receive wisdom through Buddha's teachings.

TRANSITION OF MONASTERY IN 100 YEARS



02

TRANSFORMATION OF THE SAKYAMUNI CAVES MONASTERY

03

THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE SAKYAMUNI CAVES MONASTERY

01

MORE AND MORE MONKS STAYING IN SAKYAMUNI CAVES MONASTERY

04

THE MONASTERY IS A REFUGE FOR MONKS AND DEVOTEES

MORE AND MORE MONKS STAYING IN Sakyamuni Caves MONASTERY

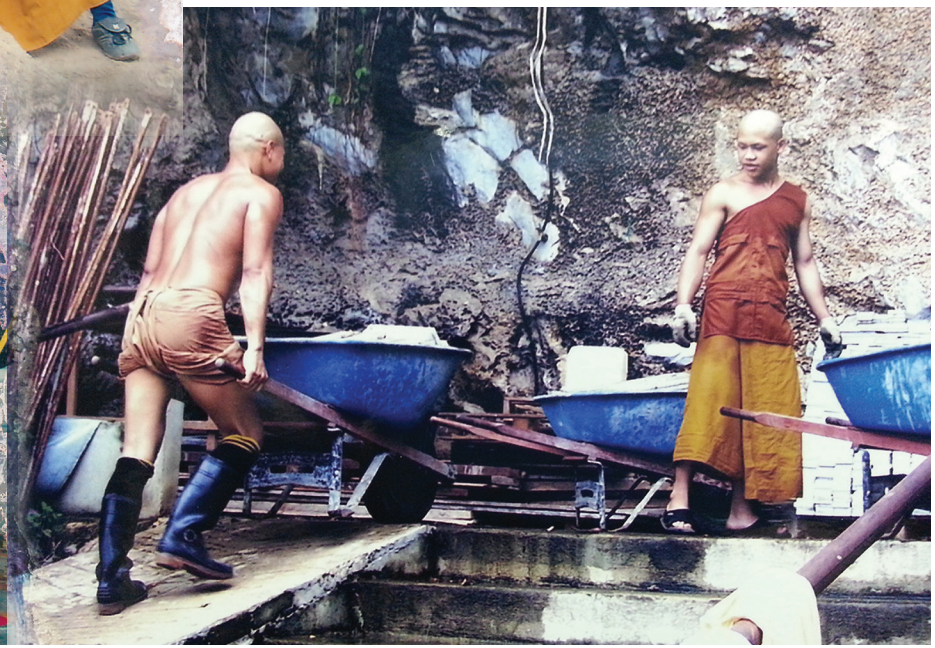
After our great Thudong Master Lao Shi Fu settled down in Gunung Kanthan, more and more monks travelled to Malaya and stayed in our Cave Monastery.

Many Thudong monks who renounce their worldly possessions to seek the “right path” found their way to The Sakyamuni Caves Monastery.

Those monks who have travelled and stayed in The Sakyamuni Caves Monastery for short or long periods also
discovered that their energy for practice does not wane and that they are able to seek wisdom unlike other caves.

Transformation of

During this time, people around the area start to learn more about monks and spiritual build of meditation. The devotees decided to reconstruct the cave temple as a proper and permanent place for monks of the
Forest and Cave tradition to pursue their enlightenment. The monks use their own strength to build up the Monastery.



Sakyamuni Caves Monastery

The management of reconstruction was not easy. It was initially supported by devotees. More than 20 million ringgit was spend.

The New Structure of the Sakyamuni Caves MONASTERY

The unique structure of the Gunung Kanthan provided the perfect construction for the Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery. There are 2 main shrine halls constructed.

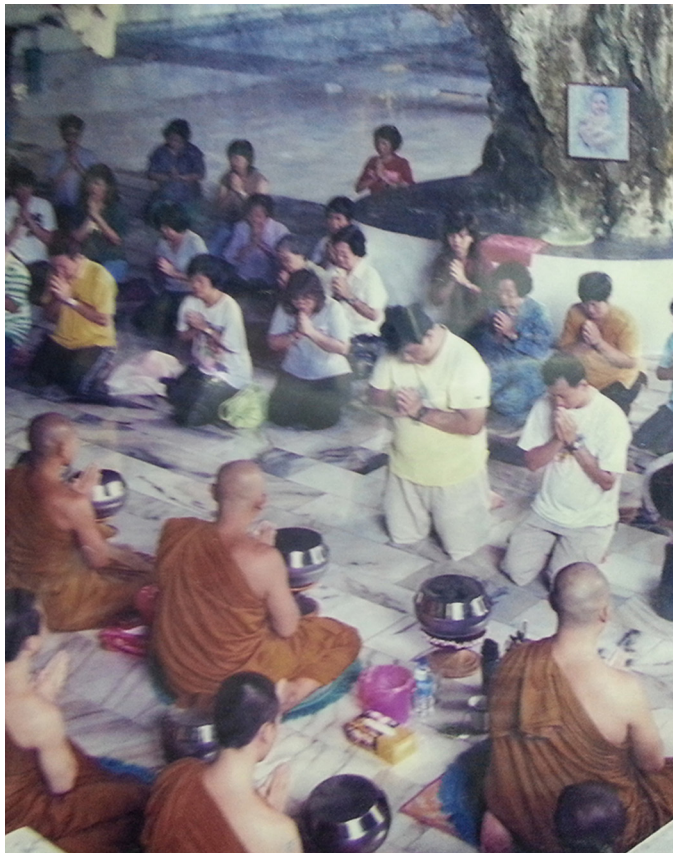
Upper Cave Shrine Hall

The Sakyamuni meditation hall at the upper cave: Many valuable Buddha statues which were passed down and offered from older temples were placed in the Caves Monastery.

Lower Cave Shrine Hall:

The Sakyamuni main shine hall at the lower cave is mainly used for chanting and walking meditation.

The Monastery is a **Refuge** for **Monks and Devotees**



Before Lafarge, Malayan Cement accorded the Monastery with respect. They understood that the monks had their residence in Gunung Kanthan. They too came to pay homage and respect to the Buddha and the monks in the Sakyamuni Caves Monastery.

Many monks who have travelled to Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery have decided to settle down here as they find our cave serves as one of the best place for religious practice. Yearly 2000 devotees come to this unique Cave Monastery for short retreats.

Our Monastery is visited by many monks from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Taiwan, England and US to practice meditation and pursue the ultimate liberation.

WALKING THE ANCIENT PATH OF WISDOM

02

CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR MEDITATION CANNOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE

01

PRESERVE THE LINEAGE OF CAVE TRADITION

03

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANKIND

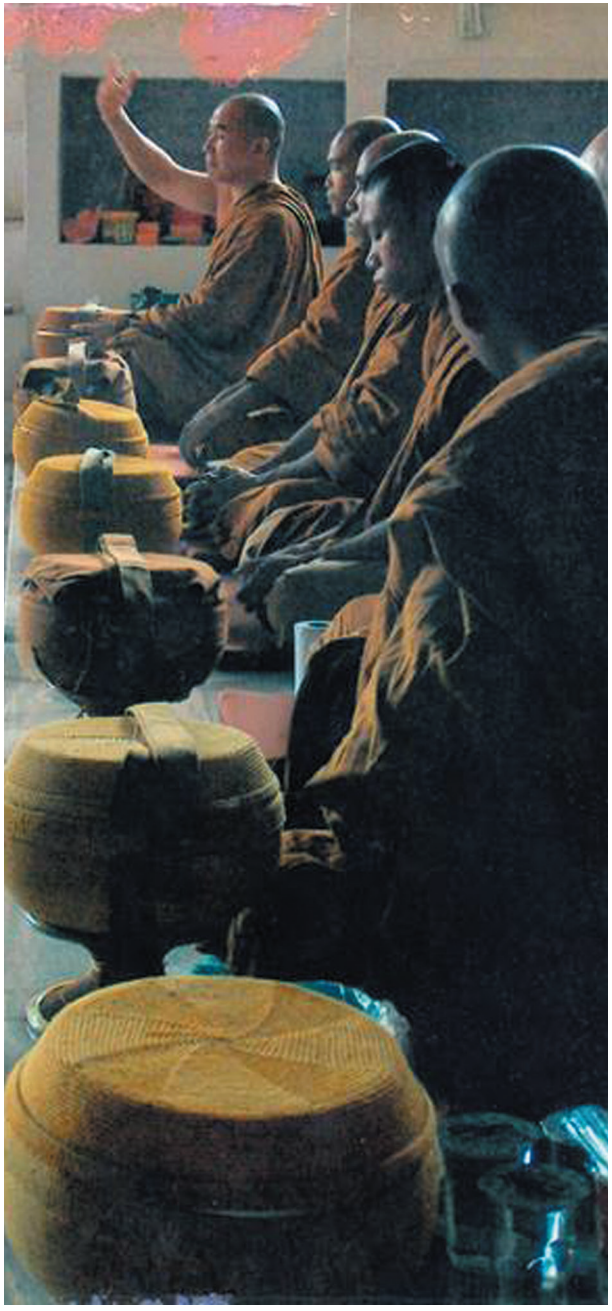
- Learning from the monks

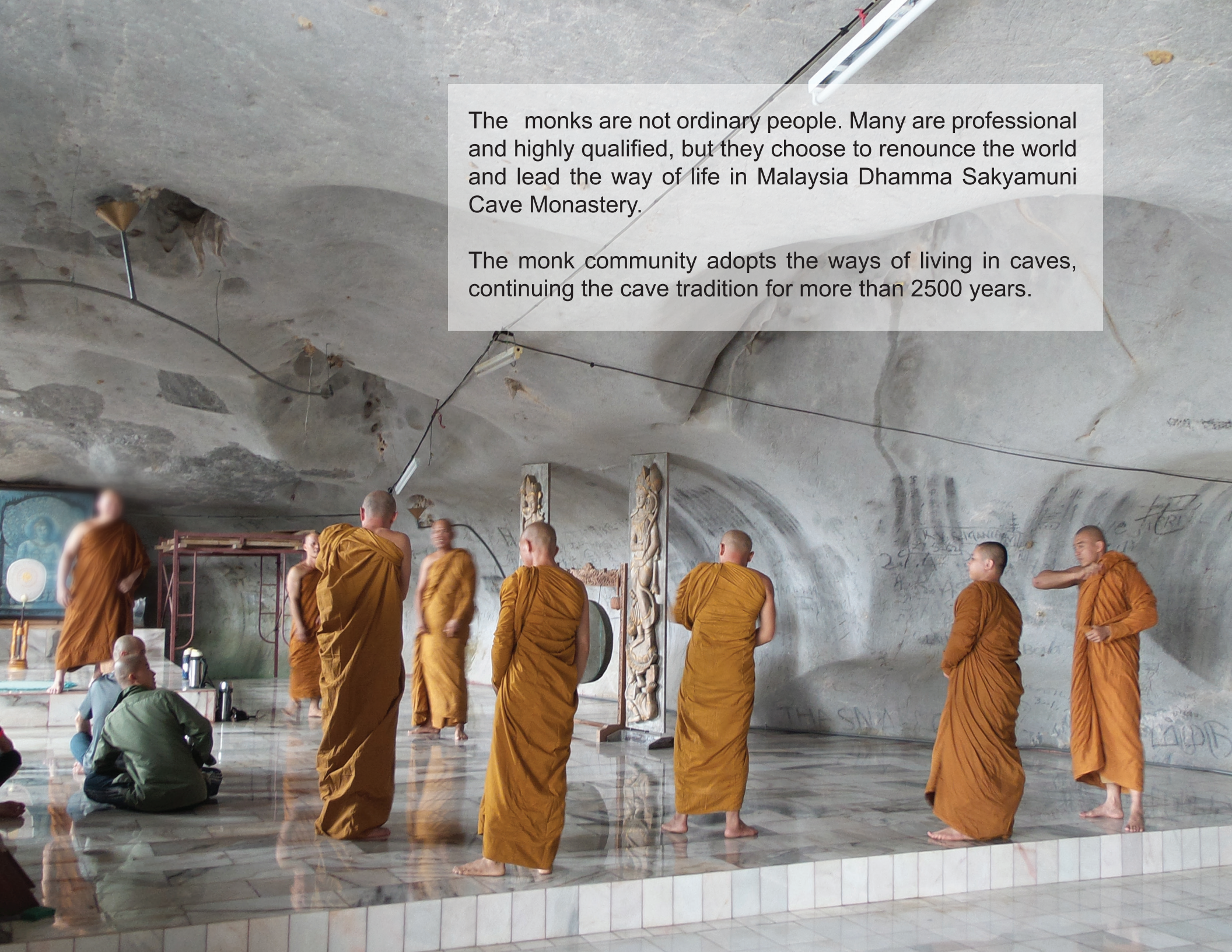
- Cultivation of mind through good deeds

Preserve the lineage

of cave tradition

The monks had abandoned their worldly life to focus on spiritual attainment. They preserve and continue the cave tradition by leading the supra mundane way of life.





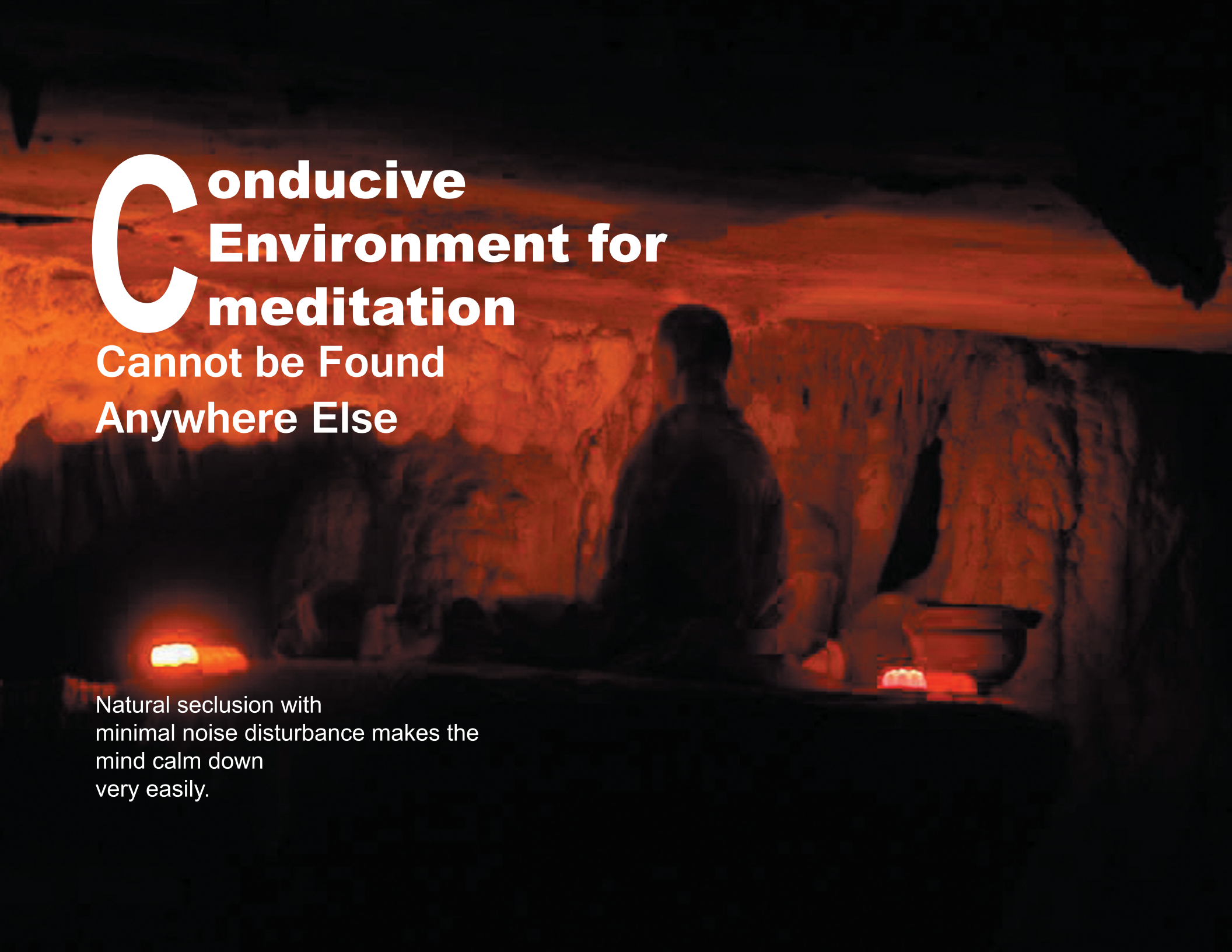
The monks are not ordinary people. Many are professional and highly qualified, but they choose to renounce the world and lead the way of life in Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Cave Monastery.

The monk community adopts the ways of living in caves, continuing the cave tradition for more than 2500 years.

Monk Ordination Ceremony

Though one should conquer a million men in battle field, yet he indeed is the noblest victor when he has conquered himself.

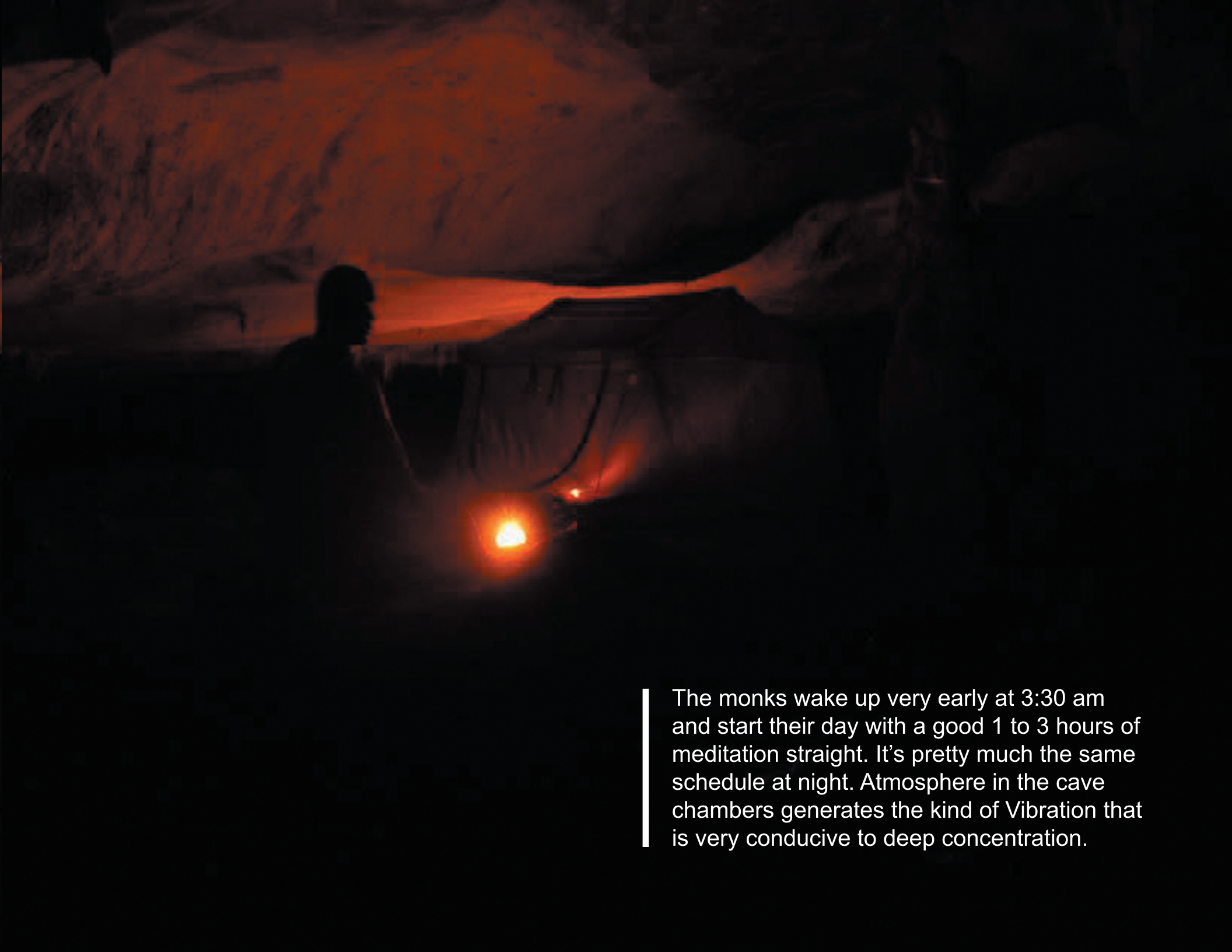
The seed of Bodhi sprouts and the journey begins in the cave...



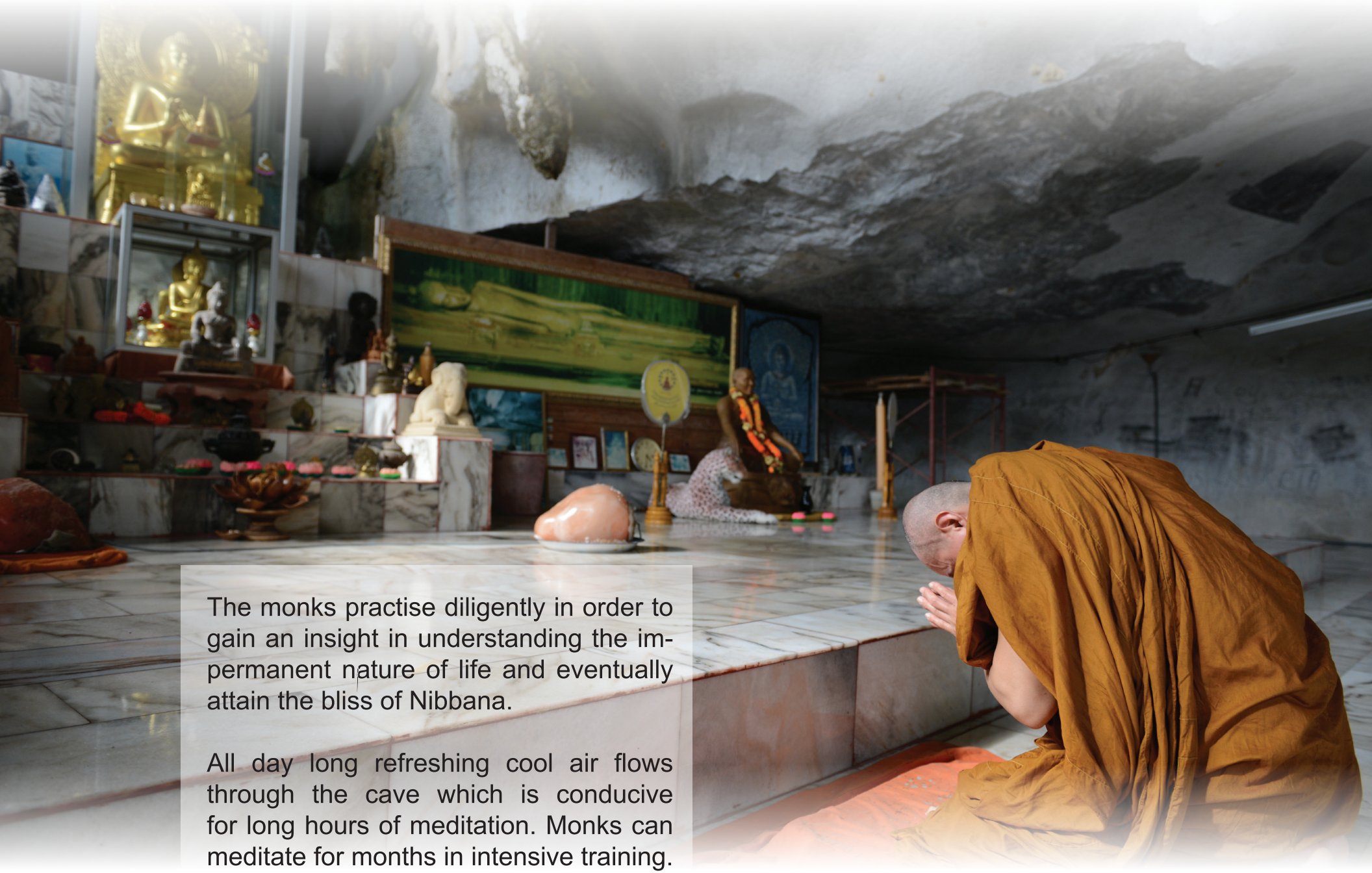
Conducive Environment for meditation

Cannot be Found Anywhere Else

Natural seclusion with
minimal noise disturbance makes the
mind calm down
very easily.



The monks wake up very early at 3:30 am and start their day with a good 1 to 3 hours of meditation straight. It's pretty much the same schedule at night. Atmosphere in the cave chambers generates the kind of Vibration that is very conducive to deep concentration.



The monks practise diligently in order to gain an insight in understanding the impermanent nature of life and eventually attain the bliss of Nibbana.

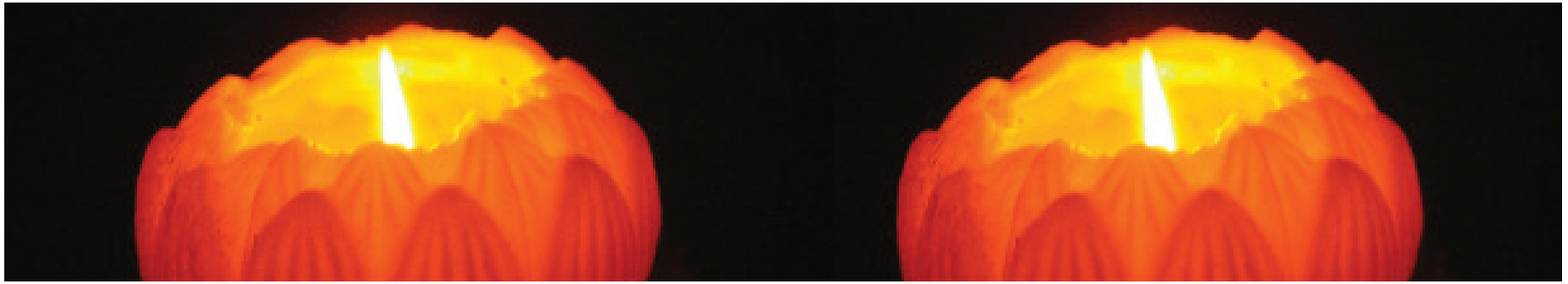
All day long refreshing cool air flows through the cave which is conducive for long hours of meditation. Monks can meditate for months in intensive training.

Contributions to mankind

Learning from the monks

In the Buddhist Cave tradition, monks strive to reach their full potential to attain enlightenment so that they can help those in need. The cave monastery serves as a refuge for the lay person to gain guidance from monks to get rid of their defilements.

The devotees are attracted by the tranquility and the uniqueness of the cave monastery. They visit the cave monastery regularly to learn from the monks. Devotees attend dhamma classes to learn about the Buddha's teachings so that they can practice in their daily life.



Contributions *to mankind*

Cultivation of mind through good deeds

Many devotees have also chosen Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery for their religious practice. The elderlies would bring their children and the young ones would bring their parents as they value the serenity and nature of this cave monastery.

LIVING IN HARMONY IN GUNUNG KANTHAN

01

LIVING IN HARMONY WITH OUR RELIGIOUS FRIEND

02

FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS NEIGHBOURHOOD

03

“GREEN TEMPLE”... IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Living in Harmony

with our Religious Friends

Surrounding the Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery, we have our religious neighbours - the Hindu temples and the Taoist temples (red and yellow temples).

We appreciate the tradition of multicultural and multi-religion society by living in harmony and unity.

Many devotees visit the temples over the weekend to pray for blessing and also enjoy the serenity and peacefulness of the cave temples.

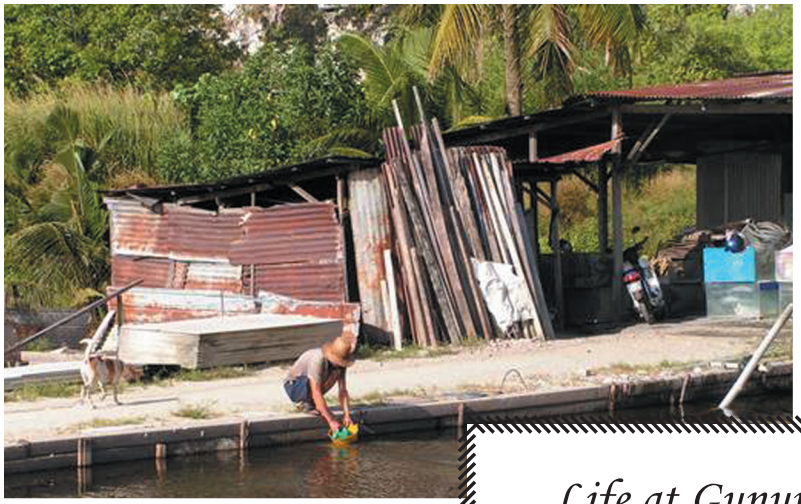
Friendly & harmonious neighbourhood

Makcik was plucking the rambutan
for us when we visited them.

We live in harmony with our neighbours.

The environment around this area has been harmonious, friendly and supportive for years with people of multicultural and multi-religion respecting each other.

We have a very good relationship with the Malay Kampung. The harmonious atmosphere is found in our vicinity.

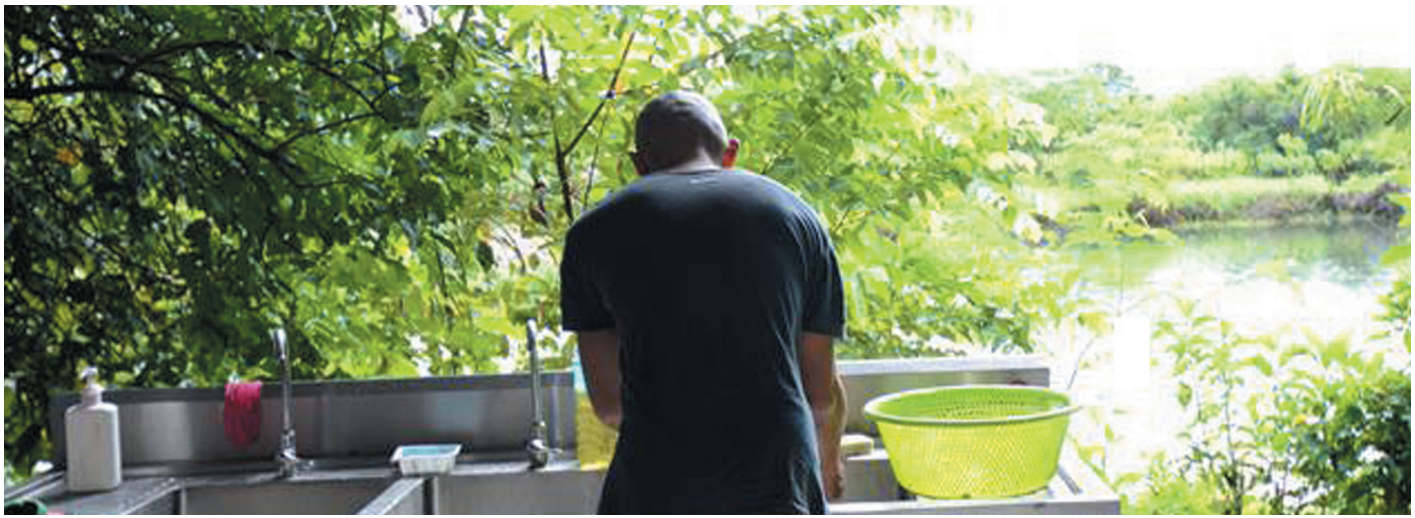


Life at Gunung Kathan is simple and basic but the human value of respect is very strong as people living around here understand and depend on the earth for survival.

Green Temple

in harmony with the environment

Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery was given the name as the "Green Temple". The monastery is nestled in the caves hidden amongst the green foliage of the trees and the vegetation. Monks rely on their surroundings to sustain their living. They use the water from the ponds and the natural water from the caves for drinking, bathing and washing. They are, simply put "self-sufficient" and "sustainable" in the Sakyamuni caves.



THE FUTURE

02

BUILDING OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

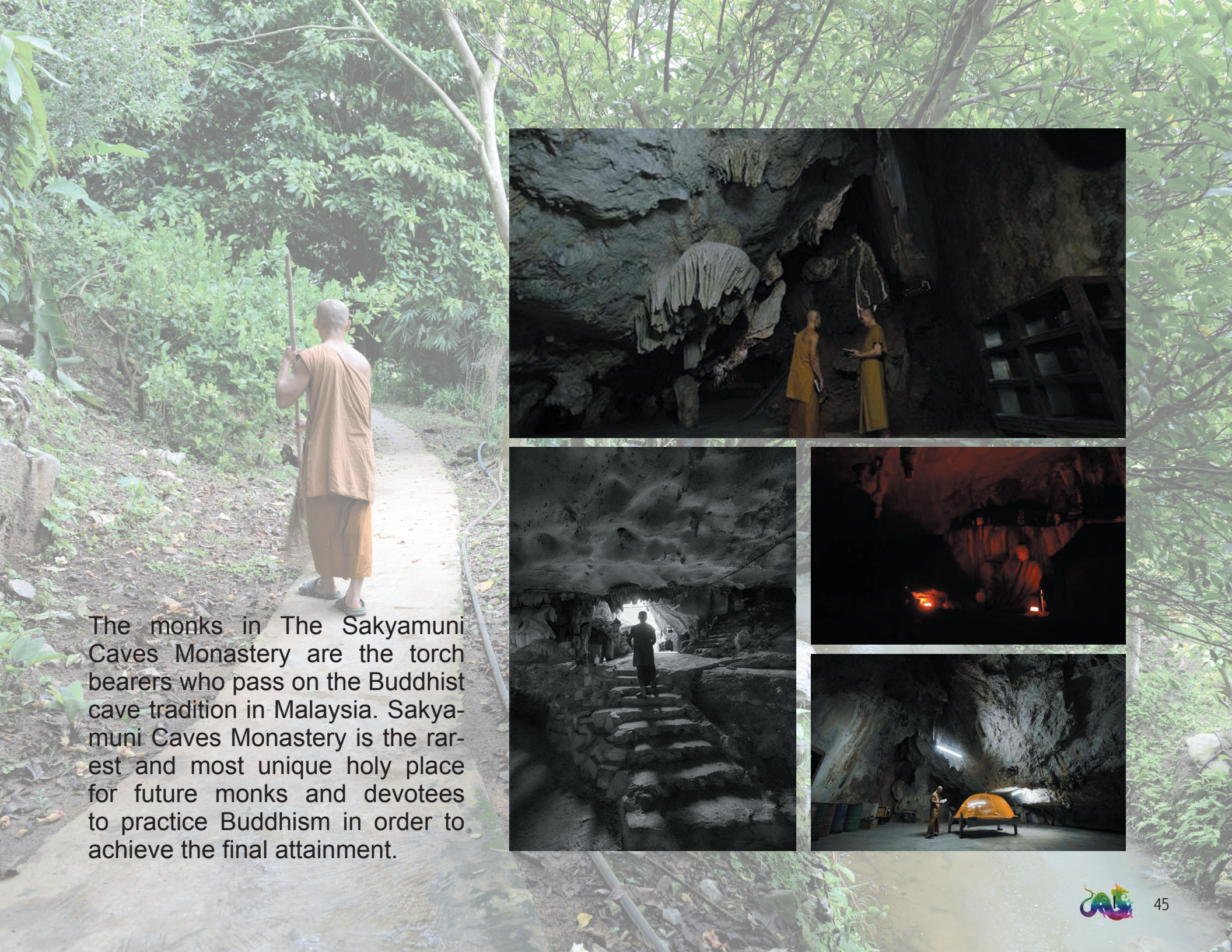
01

TORCH BEARER OF CAVE TRADITION LINEAGE TO PASS ON

03

MALAYSIA DHAMMA SAKYAMUNI MONASTERY IS OUR HOPE AND FUTURE

Torch bearer of the cave tradition lineage to pass on



The monks in The Sakyamuni Caves Monastery are the torch bearers who pass on the Buddhist cave tradition in Malaysia. Sakyamuni Caves Monastery is the rarest and most unique holy place for future monks and devotees to practice Buddhism in order to achieve the final attainment.

Building our youth for the future

Children learn how to take care, tidy and treasure their belongings and place, and use their time for more fruitful courses from their youth.

Besides dhamma, kids are educated on the importance of health and are encouraged to exercise for a stronger body.

Kids pay respect to Buddha and Sangha before dhamma classes and read dhamma books in the library.

Children enjoy a meaningful festival celebration by making their own " Tong Yuan." And keep the tradition of respecting the elderly.

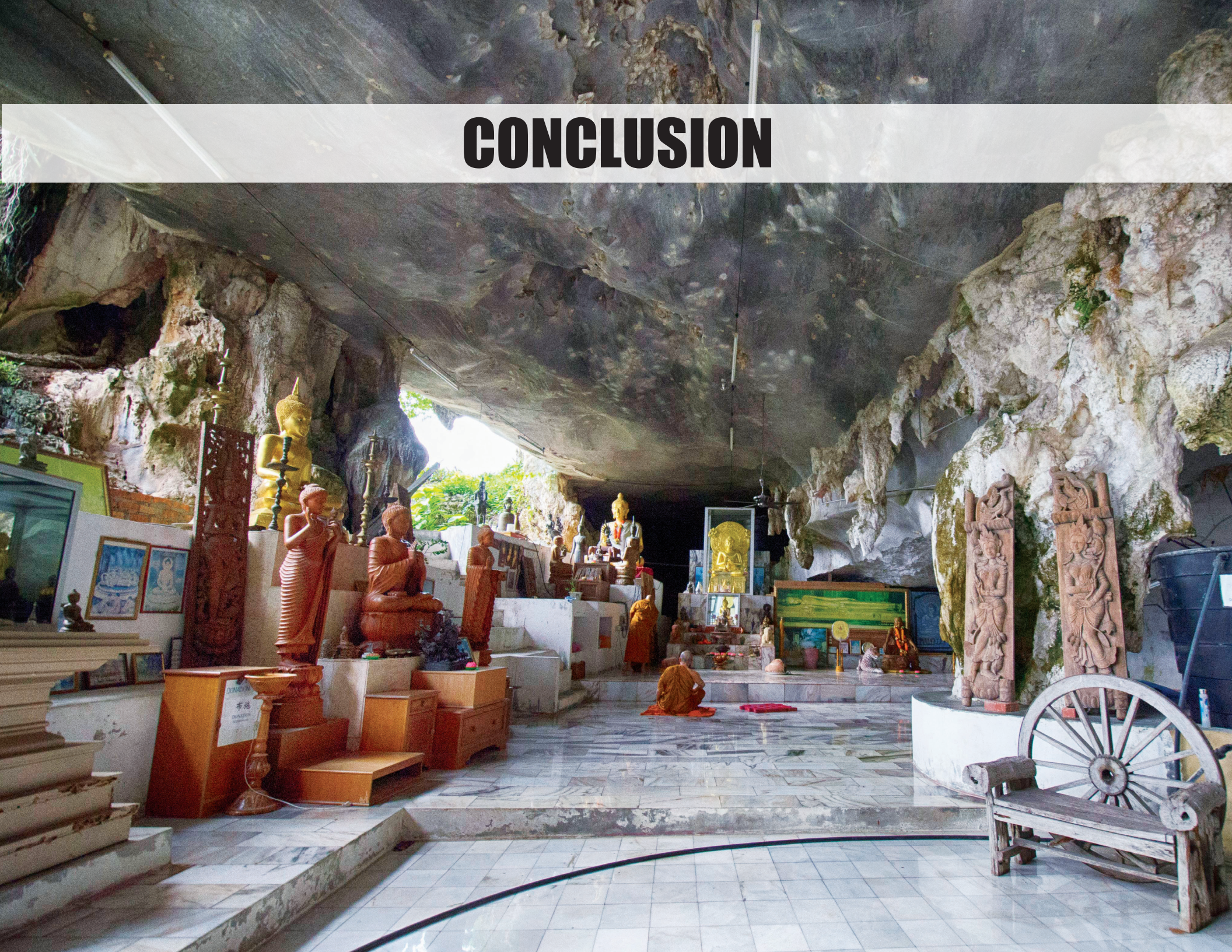
Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery is the future for the children of our faithful devotees. Many devotees treasure the nature of the cave and thus bring along their children for religious practice. Their hope is to have a new generation that is robust, rounded and resilient.

Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery

Monks, devotees and children of Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery continue to build a better place to pursue their religious goals. There is no other place that can replace our Monastery which have existed for more than 100 years. It is impossible to move or destroy this Monastery.

Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery

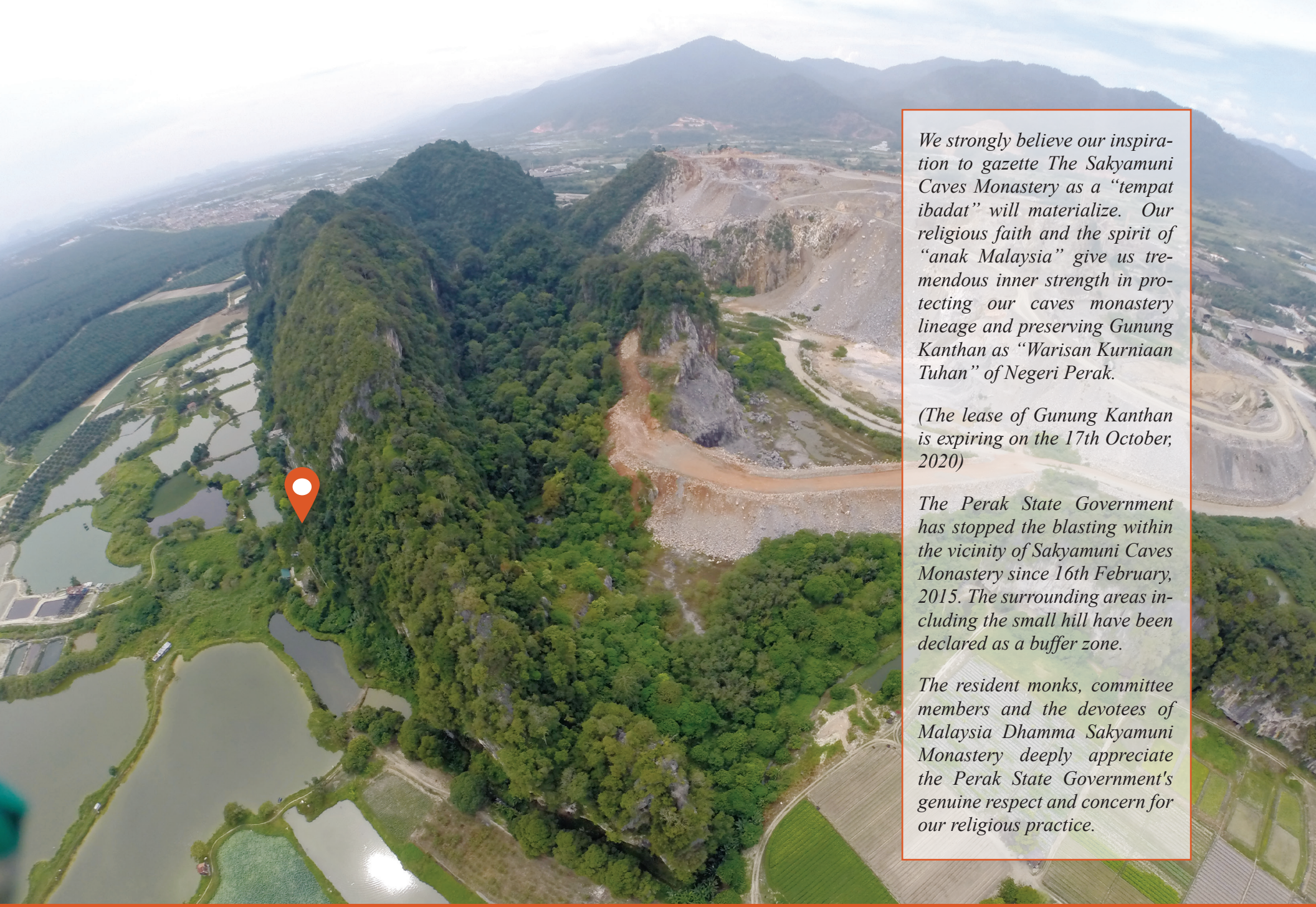
CONCLUSION



GIFT TO MANKIND

- We seek the generosity of the Perak State Government in the course of Religion to gazette the monastery as a “Tempat Ibadat” so that others might follow your leading example.

- To reinforce the true Malaysian values in preserving our National Treasures - a God’s Gift to Mankind.



We strongly believe our inspiration to gazette The Sakyamuni Caves Monastery as a "tempat ibadat" will materialize. Our religious faith and the spirit of "anak Malaysia" give us tremendous inner strength in protecting our caves monastery lineage and preserving Gunung Kanthan as "Warisan Kurniaan Tuhan" of Negeri Perak.

(The lease of Gunung Kanthan is expiring on the 17th October, 2020)

The Perak State Government has stopped the blasting within the vicinity of Sakyamuni Caves Monastery since 16th February, 2015. The surrounding areas including the small hill have been declared as a buffer zone.

The resident monks, committee members and the devotees of Malaysia Dhamma Sakyamuni Monastery deeply appreciate the Perak State Government's genuine respect and concern for our religious practice.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART